

# **POULTRY**

## **CHICKENS**

The total number of chickens on hand December 1, 2002 (excluding broilers), was 1.97 million head, up 1 percent from 2001. The value per head at \$4.70 was up \$0.30 from the value of 2001. Total inventory value was \$9.24 million, up 8 percent from the previous year. Value of sales of chickens (excluding commercial broilers) was \$984,000, up from \$773,000 in 2001.

## **EGGS**

Egg production in West Virginia during the production year (December 1, 2001-November 30, 2002) totaled 261 million eggs. This was 11 percent above the 2001 production of 235 million eggs. Layer numbers during 2002 averaged 1.22 million, up 12 percent from 2001. The average annual production per layer was 214 eggs, one egg less than the 2001 average. The average price per dozen was \$1.40, down one cent from 2001. The total value of production was \$30.5 million, up 10 percent from 2001.

## **BROILERS**

There were 89.7 million broilers produced in West Virginia during 2002, less than one percent below the 2001 production of 89.8. Total pounds produced was 358.8 million pounds, down from the 368.2 million pounds in 2001. Value of production totaled \$107.6 million, down 25 percent from the \$143.6 million in 2001. The average live weight equivalent price of \$0.30 per pound was down from the \$0.39 per pound in 2001.

## **TURKEYS**

Turkeys raised in West Virginia total 3.6 million birds, down 12 percent from 2001. Total pounds produced was 80.3 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2001. Value of production totaled \$29.7 million, down 16 percent from the \$35.3 million in 2001. The average live weight equivalent price of \$0.37 per pound was down from the \$0.39 per pound the previous year.

## **VALUE OF PRODUCTION AND SALES**

The combined value of production from eggs, broilers and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 2002 was \$168.8 million, down 19 percent from the value of \$207.3 million in 2001.